

Mandatory Suspensions for 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers

The following table explains the suspension violations for 16- and 17-year-old drivers. DMV will suspend the driver's license or learner's permit of a 16- or 17-year-old for any conviction of violating a teen driving restriction, speeding, reckless driving, street racing or using a cell phone or text messaging device while driving.

VIOLATION	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE
Graduated Driver's License (GDL) violations under §14-36g(a) including: Passenger restrictions; Driving curfew; Operating public service vehicle or vanpool; More passengers than seat belts; Carrying passengers on a motorcycle less than six months after obtaining a motorcycle endorsement;	30-Day Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.	(For all 2nd and subsequent offenses) 6-Month Suspension or until age 18, whichever is longer \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.	
USE OF CELL PHONE/ TEXT MESSAGING §14-296aa	30-Day Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.	90-Day Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.	6-Month Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.
SPEEDING (more than 20 mph over speed limit) §14-219	60-Day Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.	90-Day Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.	6-Month Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines.
RECKLESS DRIVING §14-222 (a)	6-Month Suspension \$175 license restoration fee court fines or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both.	1-Year Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.	1-Year Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.
STREET RACING §14-224(c)	6-Month Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.	1-Year Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.	1-Year Suspension \$175 license restoration fee, Court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.

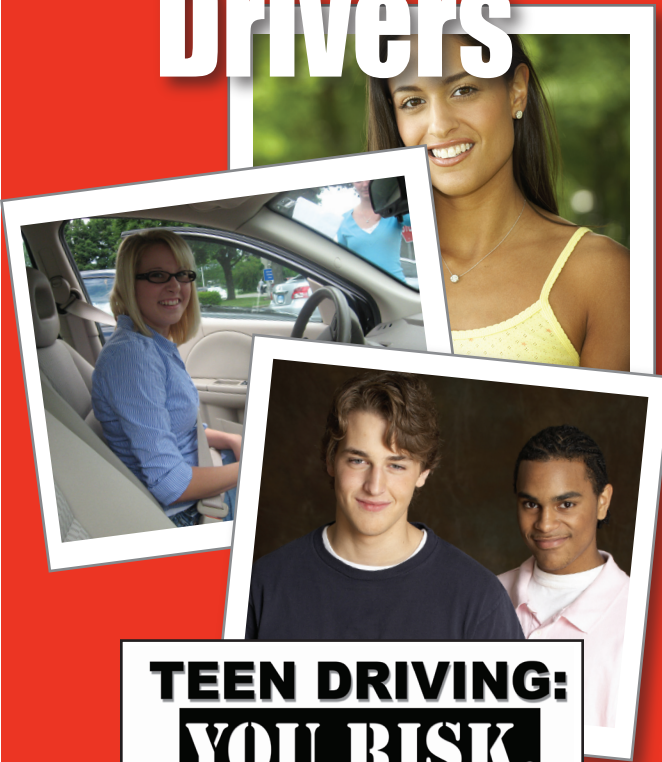
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You Should Know the Laws for 16- and 17-Year Old Drivers



**TEEN DRIVING:
YOU RISK,
YOU LOSE.**

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Revised August 2010

About the Laws for 16- and 17- Year Old Drivers

With tighter restrictions on teen drivers and tougher penalties, we hope teen drivers will understand the serious responsibilities that come with getting a Connecticut driver's license.

For Learner's Permit Holders: Required Tests

1. Applicants need to pass a 25-question knowledge test to obtain a permit.
2. Applicants need to pass a road skills test to obtain a license
3. Applicants need to pass a DMV final exam 25-question test after passing road skills test.

Training Requirements

New permit holders need at least 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training before applying for their driver's license.

New permit holders need to complete an eight-hour safe driving course. Also, parents or legal guardians are required to complete a two-hour class with the permit holder concerning teen driving laws.

Passenger Restrictions

For the entire time a driver holds a learner's permit, he or she may not have any passengers except for:

- A licensed driving instructor giving instruction; **OR**
- One person who is providing instruction and is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years prior to training; **AND**
- His or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom holds a valid driver's license.

For Newly Licensed 16- and 17- Year Old Drivers:

Curfew

11 p.m. to 5 a.m.- unless the teen is traveling for employment, school, religious activities, medical necessity, or if the individual is an assigned driver in the Safe Ride Program.

Passenger Restrictions

During the first six months the newly licensed driver may not have any passengers in the vehicle except for:

- A licensed driving instructor giving instruction; **OR**
- His or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom holds a valid driver's license; **OR**
- One person who is providing instruction and is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years prior to training.

During the second six months (months seven through twelve) the only additional passengers allowed in the vehicle are members of the driver's immediate family.

In addition, learner's permit holders and 16- and 17-year-old licensed drivers may NOT:

- Transport more passengers than the number of seatbelts in the vehicle.
- Operate any vehicle that requires a public passenger transportation permit or a vanpool vehicle.
- Use a cell phone (even if it is hands-free) or mobile electronic device while driving.
- Transport any passenger on a motorcycle for six months after the issuance of a motorcycle endorsement.

Please Note: These restrictions do not apply to persons who are active members of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer ambulance service or company, or an emergency medical service organization who are responding to an emergency call or carrying out duties as an active member, or if the individual is an assigned driver in the Safe Ride Program.

Drivers 16-and 17-years old and each of their passengers are required to wear a seat belt. If either the driver or the passenger fails to wear the seat belt, each could be cited for a seat belt violation and fined \$75.

48-Hour License Suspension for Certain Violations

16- or 17-year-olds who commit certain moving violations will have their drivers' licenses seized by a police officer and will be suspended for 48 hours. In addition, the police officer is authorized to remove the vehicle from the scene.

The driver's license will be held for that 48-hour period. In order to regain possession of the license after the 48-hour period, the teen and his or her parent or legal guardian must go to the police department and sign a written statement acknowledging the license has been returned.

Driver Retraining

Additional offenses will trigger participation in the program.

Anyone age 24 or younger who commits two or more moving violations or suspension violations must complete the DMV-certified driver retraining program.

Offenses that could require a 16- or 17-year-old driver to take the retraining program are:

- Driving in violation of learner's permit requirements.
- Driving in violation of passenger restriction and curfew laws.
- Using a cell phone or other mobile electronic device.

Drinking and Driving (Administrative Per Se Penalties)

The administrative license suspension for a 16- or 17-year-old who drives under the influence of alcohol will be at least one year if he or she had an elevated Blood Alcohol Content equal to or over .02. If the 16- or 17-year-old refuses to submit to the test, the suspension will be 18 months. This law applies to both public roads and private property.

Youthful Offender Status

Someone under 18 who commits the following cannot be considered a youthful offender:

- Negligent homicide with a motor vehicle.
- Evading responsibility following an accident that results in a death or serious injury.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Any youth adjudicated as a youthful offender for the following offenses shall have their records disclosed to DMV for the purposes of imposing a driver's license suspension:

- Reckless driving.
- Operating while under suspension.
- Evading responsibility following an accident involving property damage or physical injury.
- Street racing.
- Disregarding a police officer's signal to stop.

For more detailed information on the new driving laws, visit the DMV Center for Teen Safe Driving at ct.gov/teendriving.

Please note: These restrictions do not apply during the actual time when a learner's permit holder is receiving specific instruction from a licensed driver instructor from a commercial driving school or driver education program.